

§ 750.68 Claims not payable.

(a) A claim for damage, loss, or destruction of property or the personal injury or death caused wholly or partly by a negligent or wrongful act of the claimant or his agent or employee.

(b) A claim, or any part thereof, that is legally recoverable by the claimant under an indemnifying law or indemnity contract.

(c) A subrogated claim.

§ 750.69 Measure of damages.

Generally, the measure-of-damage provisions under the MCA are used to determine the extent of recovery for nonscope claims. Compensation is computed in accordance with §§ 750.47 and 750.48 of subpart C, except damages for personal injury or death under this section shall not be for more than the cost of reasonable medical, hospital, and burial expenses actually incurred and not otherwise furnished or paid for by the United States.

PART 751—PERSONNEL CLAIMS REGULATIONS

Subpart A—Claims Against the United States

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AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C 301; 10 U.S.C. 939, 5013, and 5148; E.O. 11476, 3 CFR, 1969 Comp., p. 132; 32 CFR 700.206 and 700.1202.

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Subpart A—Claims Against the United States

§ 751.1 Scope of subpart A.

Subpart A of this part prescribes procedures and substantive bases for administrative settlement of claims against the United States submitted by Department of the Navy (DON) personnel and civilian employees of the naval establishment.

§ 751.2 Claims against the United States: In general.

(a) *Maximum amount payable.* The Military and Civilian Employees' Personnel Claims Act (Personnel Claims Act), 31 U.S.C. 3701, 3702, and 3721, provides that the maximum amount payable for any loss or damage arising from a single incident is limited to \$40,000.00. Claims for losses occurring prior to 31 October 1988 are limited to \$25,000.00.

(b) *Additional instructions.* The Judge Advocate General of the Navy may issue additional instructions or guidance as necessary to give full force and effect to this section.

(c) *Preemption.* The provisions of this section and the Personnel Claims Act are preemptive of other claims regulations. Claims not allowable under the Personnel Claims Act may, however, be allowable under another claims act.

(d) *Other claims.* Claims arising from the operation of a ship's store, laundry, dry cleaning facility, tailor shop, or

cobbler shop should be processed in accordance with NAVSUP P487.

§ 751.3 Authority.

The Personnel Claims Act provides the authority for maximum payment up to \$40,000.00 for loss, damage, or destruction of personal property of military personnel or civilian employees incident to their service. The Act provides for the recovery from carriers, warehouse firms, and other third parties responsible for such loss, damage, or destruction. No claim may be paid unless it is presented in writing within 2 years of the incident giving rise to the claim.

§ 751.4 Construction.

The provisions of this section and the Personnel Claims Act provide limited compensation to service members and civilian employees of the DON for loss and damage to personal property incurred incident to service. This limited compensation is not a substitute for private insurance. Although not every loss may be compensated under the Personnel Claims Act, its provisions shall be broadly construed to provide reasonable compensation on meritorious claims. Adjudications must be based on common sense and the reasoned judgment of the claims examiner giving the benefit of realistic doubt to the claimant.

§ 751.5 Definitions.

(a) *Proper claimants*—(1) *Members of the DON*. All Navy and Marine Corps active duty members and reservists on active duty for training under Federal law whether commissioned, enrolled, appointed, or enlisted. A retired member may only claim under this Act if loss or damage occurred while the claimant was on active duty or in connection with the claimant's last movement of personal property incident to service.

(2) *Civilian employees of the Navy*. Federal employees of the naval establishment paid from appropriated funds. This term does not include Red Cross employees, USO personnel, and employees of Government contractors (including technical representatives).

(3) *Claims by nonappropriated-fund employees*. Claims by employees of Navy

and Marine Corps nonappropriated-fund activities for loss, damage, or destruction of personal property incident to their employment will be processed and adjudicated in accordance with this enclosure and forwarded to the appropriate local nonappropriated-fund activity which employs the claimant for payment from nonappropriated-funds.

(4) *Separation from service*. Separation from the service or termination of employment shall not bar former military personnel or civilian employees from filing claims or bar designated officers from considering, ascertaining, adjusting, determining, and authorizing payment of claims otherwise falling within the provision of these regulations when such claim accrued prior to separation or termination.

(b) *Improper claimants*. Insurers, assignees, subrogees, vendors, lienholders, contractors, subcontractors and their employees, and other persons not specifically mentioned as proper claimants.

(c) *Unusual occurrence*. Serious events and natural disasters not expected to take place in the normal course of events. Two different types of incidents may be considered unusual occurrences: those of an unusual nature and those of a common nature that occur to an unexpected degree of severity. Examples of unusual occurrences include structural defects in quarters, faulty plumbing maintenance, termite or rodent damage, unusually large size hail, and hazardous health conditions due to Government use of toxic chemicals. Examples of occurrences that are not unusual include potholes or foreign objects in the road, ice and snow sliding off a roof onto a vehicle, and tears, rips, snags, or stains on clothing. Claims that electrical or electronic devices were damaged by a power surge may be paid when lightning has actually struck the claimant's residence or objects outside the residence, such as a transformer box, or when power company records or similar evidence shows that a particular residence or group of residences was subjected to a power surge of unusual intensity. In areas subject to frequent thunderstorms or power fluctuations, claimants are expected to use surge suppressors, if